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for file*

**CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
OFFICE OF CURRENT INTELLIGENCE
7 August 1954**

TO: Deputy Director (Intelligence)
SUBJECT: Communism in French NorthAfrica

Communist parties are illegal in both Morocco and Tunisia. Party leaders have been largely exiled or imprisoned. A few are under close surveillance, and some have gone deeply underground. The party apparatus operates clandestinely, and is overtly concerned largely with circulating leaflets from time to time.

Party membership is reliably estimated at about 5,000 in Morocco and 4,000 in Tunisia, with a hard core of several hundred in each area.

The Algerian Communist Party has some 15,000 supporters and sympathizers, and operates legally and openly. Throughout French North Africa, Communism has appealed largely to peoples of French, Spanish and Italian extraction.

25X1

Since the first of July of this year a radio station in Budapest calling itself the "Voice of Independence and Peace" has been broadcasting in Arabic to North Africa. The broadcasts generally recall the support of the USSR for Tunisia and Morocco in the United Nations, and single out the United States as the bitter enemy of colonial peoples. Audience reaction in North Africa is unknown.

Communist efforts to form an independence front with the existing nationalist parties have been thwarted in both Tunisia and Morocco by the nationalist refusal to discuss a coalition. In Algeria, a federation of nationalists, Communists and native religious leaders was formed in mid-1951 but disintegrated with-25X1 in a few months. It has been revived only in the imagination of Communist propagandists.

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French authorities have found it convenient to lump nationalists and Communists together as public enemies, but tend to consider nationalism as the greater menace. Periodic French suggestions that current disorders are Communist-led or inspired, are not substantiated by available facts. The exile and arrest of nationalist leaders has permitted extremist nationalists to assume local leadership. Communists and some of these nationalists are probably collaborating at present in isolated instances at the local level. Continuing French suppression and alienation of moderate North African nationalism may, however, give the Communists the opportunity of greater collaboration with the extreme nationalists and hence for greater extensive expansion.

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